

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the specification as follows:

On page 1, just after the Title, please insert the following paragraph:

This is the U.S. National Stage of International Patent Application No. PCT/JP03/00821, filed on January 29, 2003, which designated the U.S. and filed in the Japanese language, and relies upon the filing date for priority of Japanese Application 2002-079374, filed on March 20, 2002.

On page 21, beginning at line 27, through page 22, ending at line 4, please replace the paragraph with the following revised paragraph:

The obtained heat insulating materials were burned by a gas burner (calorie: [630,000 kJ/hour] 63,000 kJ/hour, distance between the gas burner and the felt: 150mm), and the time required to make a hole in the heat insulating materials was measured. The longer the time is the higher the fire resistance is.